

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently amended). A system for the automated, audible recitation of text arranged in a sequence of one or more words and displayed on a surface defining an area having a height dimension and a width dimension, said area displaying more than one character of said text along each dimension, said system comprising:

(a) a first element capable of distinguishing individual words in said sequence from an image of said surface:

(b) a second element capable of audibly reciting the words distinguished by said first element, in said sequence;

(c) a third element capable of capturing an image of said surface such that all characters of said text within said area are captured simultaneously; and

(d) a fourth element capable of automatically processing said captured image so as to correct, without user interaction, for image distortion in a portion of said image resulting from capturing said an image from a non-planar surface having at least a portion not parallel to that of an image sensor in said third element, where said processing separately processes individual portions of said text, so as to facilitate ~~facilitates~~ automated character recognition of text in a captured said image, and including the steps of:

(i) converting said individual portions to grayscale;

(ii) applying an edge detection filter to the grayscale-converted said individual portions; and

(iii) thereafter individually rotating said individual portions to align with text respectively adjacent said individual portions.

2 (Original). The system of claim 1 where said first element includes a programmable electronic dictionary.

3 (Original). The system of claim 1 where said first element includes a spell checker.

4 (Previously presented). The system of claim 1 where said image distortion being correctable by said fourth element includes image blur resulting from portions of said surface being located outside a depth of field of said third element.

5 (Previously presented). The system of claim 2 where said programmable electronic dictionary includes a phonetic module that automatically recites an estimated pronunciation of a word to a user for verification.

6 (Previously presented). The system of claim 1 where said third element includes a processor having software that instructs said third element to capture a test image of at least a portion of said surface, analyze said test image, and based on said analysis, automatically, without user interaction, capture a second image that differs from said test image.

7 (Original). The system of claim 6 where said second image corrects for a skewed test image.

8 (Original). The system of claim 6 where said second image is more focused than said test image.

9 (Original). The system of claim 6 where said second image corrects for a distortion in said test image resulting from capturing text from a curved surface.

10 (Original). The system of claim 6 where said second image is a portion of said first image.

11 (Currently amended). A system for the automated, audible recitation of text arranged in a sequence of one or more words and displayed on a surface defining an area having a height dimension and a width dimension, said area displaying more than one character of said text along each dimension, said system comprising:

(a) a first element capable of distinguishing individual words in said sequence from an image of said surface:

(b) a second element capable of audibly reciting the words distinguished by said first element, in said sequence;

(c) a third element comprising:

(i) an array of light-sensitive members that each convert light incident on said members to respective electromagnetic signals;

(ii) a lens capable of focusing an image on said array; and

(iii) a circuit capable of receiving said respective electromagnetic signals and creating an electronic image associated with said image; and

(d) a fourth element comprising an electronic storage storing software that processes an image captured by said third element to correct, without user interaction, for image distortion in a portion of said image resulting from capturing said an image from a non-planar surface having at least a portion not parallel to that of an image sensor in said third element, where said processing separately processes individual portions of said text, so as to facilitate facilitates automated character recognition of text in a captured said image, and including the steps of:

(i) converting said individual portions to grayscale;

(ii) applying an edge detection filter to the grayscale-converted said individual portions; and

(iii) thereafter individually rotating said individual portions to align with text respectively adjacent said individual portions.

12 (Original). The s ystem of claim 11 where said first element includes a programmable electronic dictionary.

13 (Original). The s ystem of claim 11 where said first element includes a spell checker.

14 (Previously presented). The system of claim 11 where said image distortion being correctable by said fourth element includes image blur resulting from portions of said surface being located outside a depth of field of said third element.

15 (Previously presented). The system of claim 11 where said programmable electronic dictionary includes a phonetic module that automatically recites an estimated pronunciation of a word to a user for verification.

16 (Previously presented). The system of claim 11 where said third element includes a processor having software that instructs said third element to capture a test image of at least a portion of said surface, analyze said test image, and based on said analysis, automatically, without user interaction, capture a second image that differs from said test image.

17 (Original). The system of claim 16 where said second image corrects for a skewed test image.

18 (Original). The system of claim 16 where said second image is more focused than said test image.

19 (Original). The system of claim 16 where said second image corrects for a distortion in said test image resulting from capturing text from a curved surface.

20 (Original). The system of claim 16 where said second image is a portion of said first image.

21-27 (Canceled).

28 (Previously presented). A cell phone comprising:

- (a) a body portion containing a keypad, an audio receiver, and an audio transmitter;
- (b) a digital camera in said body portion having an outwardly facing lens; and
- (c) a processor capable of receiving an image containing a text sequence from said digital camera, distinguishing individual words in said sequence, and causing said audio transmitter to recite said individual words in said sequence; and
- (d) storage storing a plurality of templates for identifying the layout format of text in an image captured by said digital camera.

29 (Previously presented). The cell phone of claim 28 where at least one of said templates is in the layout format of a menu.

30 (Original). The cell phone of claim 28 where said processor is capable of correcting for at least one of a skew, blur, and distortion.

31 (Original). The cell phone of claim 28 where said processor includes a page prompt module that is capable of identifying a page number in the header or footer of an image, and prompting the audio device to recite a warning to a user if the apparatus receives images of pages of text in nonsequential order.

32 (Previously presented). The cell phone of claim 28 where at least one of said templates is in the layout format of a newspaper.

33 (Previously presented). The cell phone of claim 28 where one of said templates corresponds to a phone book.

34 (Original). The cell phone of claim 33 where said cell phone includes a button and said one of said templates instructs said processor to dial the phone number of a phone book entry being recited when the user presses said button.